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OG-08-12-994

RECEIVED

December 10, 2008

Montana Land Reliance
P.O. Box 355
Helena, Montana 59624-0355

DEC 10 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Ms. Delger-DeMars:

Thank you for providing a draft of the Bitterroot Springs Ranch conservation easement. The document outlines goals and policies that provide for the protection and enhancement of both the human and natural resources associated with the property and the Bitterroot Valley. Preserving open lands, wildlife habitat, big game winter range, and working agricultural practices for the benefit of future generations is of great importance.

Please note that, as on any parcel, construction of living units, additional dwellings, new or expanded septic systems, natural or man-made water resources, roads or road-accesses, non-residential units with water or septic, and/or other land use changes, may require formal subdivision, sanitation, and/or road review by Ravalli County or other regulatory agencies. Please consider adding a statement to the document that addresses these issues.

On page two of the draft easement document, item number five refers to statements found within the Ravalli County Growth Policy. Please note that the Ravalli County Growth Policy was repealed by the voters at the November 2008 election.

We will be happy to map the area and include it in our Conservation Easement database as soon as you inform us that the easement has been filed.

Ravalli County greatly appreciates the work of the Montana Land Reliance in the Bitterroot and I look forward to a continued and beneficial working relationship with you and your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Lavey".

John Lavey
Interim Director

cc: Ravalli County Planning Board
Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners